



Ten Key Takeaways

- 1. Accelerated adaptation planning, investments, and actions.** Atoll nations want to protect their way of life and want to remain on their islands. They must face their climate future now through accelerated implementation of sustainability, resilience and adaptation measures; not migration.
- 2. Collaboration and partnership.** Partnerships among the four atoll nations must continue and deepen through dialogue and knowledge sharing at working and technical levels, as well as top government levels. Together atolls can build stronger political will and work together to scale up projects, attract better investments, and protect their economies.
- 3. Assessment and valuation of risks for climate change and geophysical hazards.** These are vital to support decision making, cost-efficient mitigation and response strategies. Large-scale risk studies create reliable source data for suitable interventions. Valuation is key to structure climate change investment plans along with consideration of social and political factors.
- 4. Nature-based solutions.** The restoration and protection of natural ecosystems are often more cost-effective and sustainable than the construction of traditional seawalls. Reef restoration and conservation are among the most efficient investments in coastal protection.
- 5. Economic ownership and unique investment opportunities.** The large Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) of the atoll nations along with their substantial fisheries, tuna stocks and tourism streams have considerable economic value and potential. However, significant attention is needed to create economic ownership and the potential of these assets in order for atoll countries to be 'price makers' rather than 'price takers'.
- 6. Marine spatial planning.** Enforceable marine spatial plans must be developed for EEZs and territorial seas to protect natural assets and provide guidance on areas for development such as fisheries and marine protected areas. Local communities and their traditions and knowledge must be also be involved in decision-making.
- 7. Blue economy valuation and accounting frameworks.** Ocean assets in national economic accounts must be documented and integrated in spatial zoning. This reassures potential investors that atolls are committed to long term sustainability and economic resiliency.
- 8. Private sector opportunities and impact investors.** Atoll nations and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are attractive to private investors because they

are real assets, under-valued, large, and represent a diversification away from land assets. Risk needs to be transferred from the public sector to capital markets.

9. The window of opportunity is closing. There may be less donor support as countries refocus resources on their own climate liabilities due to the increase of extreme weather events. Atoll nations must secure international funding sources now.

10. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) as a trusted development partner. ADB is committed to supporting the atoll nations to raise awareness on the urgency of their adaptation needs, through convening further dialogues and providing support through climate strategy and finance, disaster risk management, solid waste management, coastal resilience and through ADB's Action Plan on Healthy Oceans and Sustainable Blue Economies.